

**University of Oklahoma Libraries
Western History Collections**

Father Theophile Caudron Collection

Caudron, Theophile (1880–1970). Papers, 1912–1970. 1 foot.

Priest. Clippings (1912–1970) concerning Monsignor Caudron's mediation in the labor disputes at Henryetta, Oklahoma, his long career as pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Henryetta, his work as superintendent of the church school, his retirement in 1965, his return to his native Belgium, the subsequent closing of the school, and Caudron's death in 1970; correspondence (1965) to and from Caudron concerning the closing of the upper six grades at St. Michael's Catholic School in Henryetta; and telegrams from prominent political figures, including a letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Biography:

Caudron was born in Hofstade, Belgium on November 12, 1880. Thereafter, he was ordained to the Priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church on July 14, 1907. He was then Appointed Pastor in Oklahoma at St. Catherine's in Langston from 1907 to 1912. He arrived at St. Michael's in Henryetta to serve from 1919 to 1965. During this period, he added a grammar school (1918), a high school with a convent for the Benedictine sisters (1921), a church (1931), and a gymnasium (1945). He was recognized as a labor leader in a town that was predominately blue collar, and that was along the oil belt in Oklahoma. The people he preached to were from the oil fields, coal mines, smelters, and other industries. He was able to mediate between the management of these industries and the workers. He was publicly recognized for his civil service and faith in God by being made Pastor Emeritus of St. Michael's on the day of his retirement and also being made Domestic Prelate of the Pope. After moving back to his homeland in 1965, he died on January 19, 1970.

Folder:

1. *Golden Jubilee*--Celebration of 50 years of service as pastor of St. Michael's in Henryetta, Oklahoma

"Monsignor Caudron to be Feted with Golden Jubilee" by Benedictine Sisters, Henryetta, Oklahoma, newspaper photograph: Msgr. Caudron

"Celebration for Monsignor: 50th Anniversary Recognized Here"

"Happy Anniversary, Father," editorial

"Henriettians to Fete Priest for 50 Years Service" by Jo Ann Green, Church News Editor, May 26, 1962, newspaper photograph: Caudron

"Big Salute for Priest Set Today," *Daily Oklahoman*, May 27, 1962

"50 Years of Service for God and People" by Bill Butler of *The World Staff*, newspaper photograph: Msgr. Caudron enjoying work in his vegetable garden

"Monsignor Caudron Honored at Golden Jubilee," newspaper photograph: seven of fifteen hostesses who planned the reception tea shown with cake

Caudron Retiring

"Father Caudron is Retiring after 53 Years Service" by Gladys Moore, newspaper photograph: Father Caudron standing in front to the church he helped build

Successor of Henryetta's St. Michael's Named

"Caudron Honored; Successor Named"

"Bishop Reed Names Pace to Pastor St. Michael's" newspaper photograph: Caudron standing in front of church

Farewell Reception

"Reverend Caudron's Reception Set for August 15"

"Monsignor to be Honored August 15"

Departure

"Pastor Preparing to Leave Country"

"Pastor Leaves St. Michael's"

His Life in Hofstade, Belgium

"First time since 1918, No Catholic School to Open" newspaper photograph: Monsignor Caudron

"Monsignor to Celebrate 60 Years" newspaper photographs: Nalon Basore, Monsignor Theodore Caudron, Miss Yvonne Caudron in their home on the outskirts of the small town of Hofstade, Charles Caudron, Miss Yvonne Caudron with Monsignor Caudron (her uncle)

His Death

"Colorful Priest Succumbs: Father Caudron Dead" newspaper photograph: Monsignor Caudron by Camilla Rone, *Henryetta Free-Lance*

"Priest Who Won Hearts of Henryetta is Dead," *Tulsa World*, newspaper photograph: Monsignor Caudron

"Father Caudron's Life Service Ends" by Gladys Moore, newspaper photograph: Monsignor Caudron, *Okmulgee Times*

"Retired Reverend Monsignor Caudron," a short biographical item

2. Newspaper articles concerning Caudron

"Msgr. Caudron Promotes Amity in Henryetta," *Henryetta Daily Free Lance*, September 2, 1963, newspaper photograph: Msgr. Caudron

"Msgr. Harkin Gets Vicar General Post A 53 Appointed," *The Oklahoma Courier*, Friday, August 13, 1965

"Father Caudron to Celebrate 60th Jubilee," *Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Daily Times*, Sunday, July 4, 1967

Correspondence: concerning the closing of the upper six grades at St. Michaels--- letter to the editor regarding the defense of St. Michael's parish school from Rt. Rev. Caudron, attached is an article criticizing the school which Caudron responds to in the letter to the editor, "Henryetta Parish Will Drop Six Grades, May 10, 1965; Reverend Ernest A. Fulsche, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, to Mr. Lawrence J. Truedeli, concerning the closing of the upper six grades; attached to number 2, Rt. Rev. Theo Caudron to Rev. Ernest A. Flusche concerning the defense of keeping the parish open, May 16, 1965; Rev Ernest A. Flusche to Rev. Caudron concerning closing of upper six grades, March 25, 1965; Caudron to Rev. Flusche in defense of high school, March 20, 1965

3. Telegram from Cardinal Cicognani congratulating Caudron on 50 years of service to St. Michael's in Henryetta, May 22, 1962; letter from Allen R. McGinnis, Vice President and Creative Director of Batten, Durstine and Osborn Inc, Los Angeles, California, concerning Caudron's resignation, June 25, 1965; copy of the certificate awarding Rt. Rev. Msgr. Theophile Caudron the honor of Pastor Emeritus of St. Michael's Church by the Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Rev. William Pace, August 7, 1965, effective August 21, 1965; 2 copies of "A Tribute to Monsignor Theophile Caudron, Pastor, St. Michael's Church, Henryetta, Oklahoma, 1912-1964"; telegram copy from Mike Mohrone, U.S. Senate, concerning Caudron's retirement, August 13, 1965; telegram copy from Senator Edward Kennedy concerning Monsignor Caudron's retirement, August 13, 1965; telegram copy from Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States, concerning Caudron's retirement, August 14, 1965; formal statement by Ed Rieheson, Mayor of Henryetta, proclaiming Friday, August 20, 1965 as a holiday for the pastor

Outsized Box 1:

Folder:

1. Father Theophile Caudron Collection: "Henryetians of the Year Named-- Monsignor Caudron, Father Caudron Has Spent 47 Helping Build Henryetta," *Henryetta Daily Free-Lance*, by Bill Tharp, Free-Lance News Editor, newspaper photographs: Monsignor Caudron as he looked when he arrived in Henryetta as a young man, Monsignor Caudron in ceremonial robes, Caudron dictating letter to in St. John's Hospital, St. Michael's Catholic Church today, January 1960; "Retirement Opens Doors, Brings Memories," "Pastor's Retirement brings Warm Memories," Friday, July 26, 1965, newspaper photograph: Caudron reminisces, *The Oklahoma Courier; Henryetta Daily Free-Lance*, Special Edition dedicated to Caudron upon his retirement, August 19, 1965--page 2: "Monsignor is Retiring; Leaves After 53 Years: Parish Priest to Return to Belgium Friday"; page 8: "Monsignor Bids Friends Farewell," "Parish Priest if Honored as Man of the Year," "Congratulations Pouring Into City"; page 9: "Monsignor Made St. Michael's Grow: Father Caudron Shaped Church, School History," newspaper photographs: St. Michael's Church, School and Gymnasium; page 10: "53 Years of Labor Given to City," newspaper photographs: assorted; Editorial--"Well Done Monsignor"

Caudron's Scrapbook

Page 1--"Evergreens at St. Michael's are Show Place of Beauty in City," "Henryetta Ranks as One of the 'Best' Cities in the State," i.e.: Henryetta lies in the oil belt of Oklahoma

Page 2--"St. Michael's Gymnasium," 2 articles and 2 photocopies

Page 3--Note: all pictures in this scrapbook have been removed to the photo archives; Article describing St. Michael's Parish of Oklahoma

Page 4--"New Henryetta Church is Dedicated" (Bulletin, 1932)

Page 5--"Bishop Kelley to Take Part Today in Henryetta Church Dedication" from the Henryetta Bureau of the Times; "1,000 Witness Church Event--Bishop Francis Kelley Dedicates New St. Michael's"; "Henryetta Church Has Many Beautiful Shrubs and Trees"; certificate from the Secretary of the Treasury that proves that Rev. Father Caudron has been appointed an 'authorized agent of the Treasury Department for the year ending December 31, 1918,' authorized to distribute U.S. War-Savings certificate stamps and U.S. thrift stamps

December 24, 1918

Page 6--"Souvenir of Service: Four-Minute Men Committee on Public Information;" certificate of honorable discharge from the Service of the U.S. in

negotiation of Loyal and Decorated Service; enclosed is a form letter from Woodrow Wilson

Page7--"Fr. Caudron Seeks Support for City Bonds" by Rev. Fr. Caudron; "Henryetta Chamber of Commerce Addressed by Priest"; "Priest Misses Two Air Crashes"

Page8--"Father Caudron Discusses Belgium's Post-War Recovery in Rotary Address," *Okmulgee Times*; "You Never Have to Help Churchgoer, Catholic Minister Regionals City"

Page 9--"The Greatest Evil of Today" by Rev. Theophile Caudron; "Cooperation on All Levels Urged"; "Fr. Caudron Tells of Needs of World"; "Keep Out of Beauty Contest, Henryetta Priest Tells Girls"; "Rev. Father Theo Caudron Adds His Endorsement to Series of Red Cross Pleas Being Made"; "From Me to You" by J. Lelund Gourley

Page 10--"Missionary Vignettes," *Extension Magazine*, December 1931, by Most Reverend F.C. Kelley, D.D., Litt. D.; newspaper photos: coal miners at present out of work-ready to work on the foundation at St. Michael's new church; St. Michael's old church built in 1909; mixing the concrete for the new foundation

Page 11--Francis C. Kelley: "Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa Offers You Holiday Greetings and Prayers," pamphlet enclosed with letter to Father Caudron from Francis C. Kelley, December 20, 1932, titled "Breakfast in Oklahoma"

Page 12--"The Red Menace" editorial by Rev. Theo Caudron on the matter of communism

Page 13--Letters to the Editor by Rev. Theo Caudron concerning *Prejudice*; Henryetta Pastor Publishes Booklet on Catholic Faith," December 22, 1934; "A Glimpse of Truth," a sixteen page booklet summarizing the doctrines and beliefs of the Catholic Church, prepared by Monsignor Caudron

Page 14--"Father Canadian Makes Principal Talk at Okmulgee Legion Rally" with attached discussion of Caudron's activities as Father, by Allen McGinnis

Page 15--*Extension Magazine*, January 1918, "Missionary Results" by Rev. Theophile Caudron, page 1; newspaper photos: some of our Henryetta publishers; St. Joseph's Church at Ada, Oklahoma; Sunday School class at Holdenville, Oklahoma

Page 16--"Between Us" by Rev. Father Theo Caudron, discussion of human nature; "Belgium--Famous Little Nation," to editor of *Free-Lance* from Rev. Caudron

Page 17--"Caudron Will Celebrate His 25 Years Here: Thanksgiving Mass Sunday Morning Will be Part of Program"

February 3, 1952

"Story of Henryetta Church Is Story of Belgian-Born Priest--Father Caudron"

Page 18--"St. Michael's Parish Had Hard Time, But No Hard Hearts"; newspaper photographs: St. Michael's Plant

Page 19--"Father Caudron Voted for Building Churches, Helping Solve City Labor Worries: Believes Rich, Poor Children Should Get Same Chance at Education, Helps Promote His Theories in Local Schools"; newspaper photos: Father Caudron as he appeared on arrival in Henryetta; Father Caudron as an older man

Page 20--"Strange, Exciting Stories Flew From Father's Lips"; "A Tribute to Father Caudron"

Page 21--"Church News: St. Michael's Reception Sunday to Honor Pastor's Anniversary"; "40 Years in One Parish! Father Theo Caudron, Zealous Pastor of Henryetta Will Mark the Occasion"; newspaper photo: Father Caudron's St. Michael's Plant

Page 22--"Amerikaanse Stud Huldigde Een Vlaming uit Hofstade"; "He'll Take Trip in June of 1953; Over 100 Wires, Letters Received"

Page 23--"Letter from Thomas L. Gibson, Justice, Supreme Court of Oklahoma, to Monsignor Caudron, October 7, 1952"

Page 24--"1,000 Honor Father Theophile Caudron for 40 Years of Service in Henryetta," *Okmulgee Daily Times*, October 19, 1952; newspaper photo: Caudron and peers in gymnasium; "Priest to Mark 40 Years of Service at Henryetta"

Page 25--"Father Caudron Honored" by Peggy Jackson; "Caudron Given Ticket to Belgium on Anniversary"

Page 26--"America's Destiny in the Making," "Rev. Fr. Theo Caudron Urges Every Citizen to Support Community Chest"

Page 27--"Labor and Its Many Concerns" by Caudron; "God and Democracy" by Caudron

Page 28--Letter from F.D.R. to Monsignor concerning social security legislation, September 23, 1935

Page 29--"Bishop Praises Caudron"; "Local Priest Tops His Career Saturday"
newspaper photo: Msgr. Theo Caudron; "Rev. Caudron Now Monsignor"